

Claims 1-28 were pending in this application. The election of Claims 1-21 is affirmed. Non-elected Claims 22-28 have been cancelled without prejudice. New Claims 29-31 have been added.

Claims 1-4, 6-15, and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Glenn (U.S. Patent No. 6,150,193). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claims 1 and 9 include the feature of "conductive material comprising a conductive ring disposed around the periphery of the contact pattern." Glenn does not disclose such a feature. The Examiner points to Glenn's Figures 5 and 6 to support the rejection. However, those figures do not show a conductive ring disposed around a contact pattern. Figures 5 and 6 are in cross section and do not indicate or suggest that metallization 22 or ground contact 202 form a ring. Glenn's specification also does not teach or suggest such a ring. Since Glenn does not disclose all of the features of Claims 1 and 9, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of those claims be withdrawn.

Claims 2-8 and 10-21 depend from Claims 1 and 9 and are therefore patentable over Glenn for at least the reasons presented above for that claim.

Claims 5, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glenn in view of Lau (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,710). Claims 5, 16, and 17 depend from Claims 1 and 9. As discussed above, Glenn does not teach or suggest all of the features of Claims 1 and 9. Lau does not cure the deficiencies of Glenn as Lau was cited simply for its teachings of polyimide. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 9, and Claims 5, 16, and 17 which depend therefrom, are patentable over the cited references.

New Claim 29 includes features of Claim 1 and 9 not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 29 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons presented above



for Claims 1 and 9. Support for new Claims 30 and 31 may be found in the specification at page 11, lines 8-18, as well as in Figure 3. The cited references do not teach or suggest a trace connected to a conductive ring and surrounding a selected one or a selected group of contacts within a plurality of contacts. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 30 and 31 are patentable over the cited references.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of Claims 1-21 and 29-31. If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

Texas Instruments Incorporated
P.O. Box 655474, M/S 3999
Dallas, TX 75265
Phone: 972 917-5653
Fax: 972 917-4418

Respectfully submitted,

Michael K. Skrehot
Reg. No. 36,682